

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action dated January 29, 2003, claims 1-19 are rejected. Claims 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, and 12 are herein amended. No new matter has been introduced. Claims 1-19 are pending.

**Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112**

Claims 1-8 and 11-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants assume that the Examiner intends to reject claim 19 for the same reason, since claim 19 depends from claim 3 which, in turn, depends from claim 1.

Specifically, the Examiner states that claim 1 and all dependent claims therefrom recite “ABA type block copolymer” and the use of the word “type” renders the claims indefinite. Furthermore, the Examiner states that Claim 1 “vacuously refers to the polybutadiene segment as B or B’.”

Claims 1, 2, 3, and 12 are herein amended to delete all occurrences of word “type”.

In claim 1, B’ refers to a hydrogenated polybutadiene segment in an ABA block copolymer, whereas B refers to a segment derived from B’ by hydroxyalkylating B’ at both ends, and the number average molecular weight of such ***“hydroxylated B’ at both ends” (i.e., segment B) is defined to be 500-10,000***. Thus, there is a distinction between B and B’. To make this distinction clearer, claim 1 is further amended in the manner shown herein.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-8 and 11-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

**Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by *Tajima et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,191,011; hereafter “*Tajima*”).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the statement.

*Tajima* discloses a polyacetal resin compositions in which a polyacetal base resin, a particulate filler material and an acrylic resin are blended with one another under melt conditions and in certain specified amounts so as to improve the dispersion of the acrylic resin and filler by forming an interconnected network throughout the polyacetal base resin (*see col. 2, lines 1-13*). Such composition improves the dimensional accuracy, such as distortion and shrinkage during molding that are observed with conventional blending of a polyacetal resin and an acrylic resin. The polyacetal base resin may be any polyoxymethylene homopolymer, or a polyoxymethylene copolymer, terpolymer and block copolymer containing a small amount of other constituent units in addition to the oxymethylene groups (*col. 4, lines 5-11*). However, there is no description in *Tajima* as to a polyacetal resin composition comprising a polymer compound (I) which, in turn, comprises *an ABA block copolymer* of the present invention as recited in claim 1. Thus, the compositions recited in claims 9 and 10 are novel over the polyacetal resin compositions of *Tajima*. Furthermore, one skilled in the art would not have been able to come up with the polyacetal resin composition comprising an ABA block copolymer of the present invention from the composition disclosed in *Tajima*, which does not teach or suggest a composition comprising such an ABA block copolymer.

Claims 9 and 10 are herein amended to make the above-described distinction clearer by reciting that the polymer compound (I) and the polymer compound (II) are respectively set forth in claim 3.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Tajima* be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

No fee, other than an extension fee for one (1) month, is believed due for this submission. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper

hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-2215, under Order No. A0010.0000/P001. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures